

# Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

George Smith, Fire Chief  
606 Douglas Highway  
Lamoine, ME 04605

Emergency: 9-1-1

Station: (207) 667-2623



## Proposed Fire Department Budget – 2016/17

I am pleased to present the budget for the fire department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The department has reviewed the proposal which represents a \$4,450 increase from the current fiscal year. Much of the increase has to do with required and needed maintenance of existing facilities and equipment, and a reflection of expense reimbursements to members.

We're fortunate to have a fairly strong volunteer firefighting force, and two members will be going through the Hancock County Firefighter Academy this year.

**Chief's Salary - \$1,700** – This represents a modest \$100.00 increase. Stipends for volunteer fire chiefs are varied around Hancock County. The Maine Municipal Association Salary Survey last conducted in 2013 lists fire chief stipends as follows:

### Hancock County

Town	Population	Salary
Hancock	2296	\$ 2,000.00
Gouldsboro	1996	\$ 3,927.00
SW Harbor	1930	\$ 6,468.00
Deer Isle	1884	\$ 9,500.00
Lamoine	1659	\$ 1,500.00
Trenton	1449	\$ 2,000.00
Castine	1444	\$ 7,500.00
Penobscot	1341	\$ 3,250.00
Winter Harbor	964	\$ 750.00
Brooksville	848	\$ 4,000.00
Brooklin	832	\$ 6,011.00
Osborn	71	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>1393</b>	<b>\$ 3,992.17</b>

### Population Comparison

East Millinocket	1727	\$ 5,000.00
Nobleboro	1686	\$ 3,000.00
Greenville	1678	\$ 2,000.00
Pownal	1668	\$ 10,000.00
Lamoine	1659	\$ 1,500.00
West Paris	1630	\$ 4,000.00
Hiram	1592	\$ 1,200.00
Peru	1575	\$ 3,000.00
Newfield	1558	\$ 5,150.00

Baileyville	1558	\$ 4,000.00
Stockton Springs	1546	\$ 6,000.00
South Thomaston	1530	\$ 2,750.00
Sebago	1520	\$ 4,727.70
Newburgh	1500	\$ 4,000.00
Waterford	1506	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Average</b>	<b>1596</b>	<b>\$ 3,921.85</b>

As you can see, the chief in Lamoine is paid well below the Hancock County average and the average towns of similar population. Our two neighboring mutual aid departments pay \$2,000/year. The proposed \$100 increase brings us closer to the average, but not by much.

**Personnel Reimbursements - \$9000** – As mentioned in the opening paragraph, we've had two new members join this year. The reimbursement schedule is fairly generic, with firefighters receiving \$300/year, lieutenants \$350/year, captains \$400/year and chief officers \$500/year. The basis for this schedule is that the officers tend to put in more time and incur more expense (travel, clothing, etc) than non-officers. Some members who incur expense during fund raising activities are reimbursed \$100/year.

**Electricity - \$2000** – This represents no change from the current fiscal year. Electricity use can be partly directly tied to how cold the winter is and to how much fire activity there is. The station used nearly \$1,900 in the previous fiscal year.

**Water - \$300** – The Cold Spring Water Company did not anticipate a change in their rate, and it should remain at the \$300 that was billed for the current fiscal year.

**Telephone - \$750** – The fire department has an emergency cell phone in one truck that is occasionally used, averaging \$15/month. The land line in the station is about \$47/month, which comes out to \$744/year. Rounded up is \$750, which represents no change from the current fiscal year.

**Heating Oil - \$6,000** – No change from the current fiscal year is proposed. We realize the cost for heating oil is down significantly this year. The proposed budget is for 1,500 gallons of fuel at \$4.00/gallon. We may have to rethink that in the near future. The average the last 2-years has been about 2,000 gallons/year. The 5-year fuel use average 1,739 gallons.

**Truck Maintenance - \$5,000.00** – No change is proposed for the current fiscal year. The trucks receive a state inspection and oil change annually, plus any number of trips to the garage for items that crop up from time to time.

**Pump Maintenance - \$2,500.00** – Items that are not directly truck related are maintained in the pumps line. All the trucks are in very good shape. The 5-year average for pump maintenance warrants the \$500 proposed increase.

**Rescue Boat Maintenance - \$1,000** – As you know the fire department has placed its new boat into service. The line item is up \$400. It's a larger boat with a larger motor and sophisticated electronics. We hope this is enough.

**Radio Maintenance-\$800** – No change is proposed from the current fiscal year. This covers two-way radio maintenance as well as pagers for the fire department members.

**Equipment Maintenance - \$1,400** – Among the pieces of equipment that require annual maintenance are the Holmatro cutting tools, ventilation fans, chainsaws, gas monitor, thermal imaging camera, generators and the like. This line is up \$200 from the current fiscal year.

**Lights and Batteries - \$150** – No change from the current fiscal year is proposed.

**Station Supplies - \$300** – This includes cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet tissue, etc. No change is proposed from the current fiscal year.

**Hand Tools - \$200** – The actual amount spent in the previous fiscal year was \$175 or so, thus the proposed \$50 increase in the proposed budget.

**First Aid - \$300** – The biggest expense here is new pads for the AED units. The pads have an expiration date on them and need to be replaced periodically, and after use. Unfortunately, we've had a few occasions in the past couple of years to use them. No change is proposed from the current budget.

**Inoculation Program - \$1,000** – The fire department is mandated to offer Hepatitis B and A shots, and also provides a flu shot annual to members who wish to have one. The Hepatitis shots are expensive. No change is proposed from the current budget.

**Respiratory Fit Testing - \$1,000** – This is another mandate from the Bureau of Labor Standards. A nurse reviews a questionnaire from each firefighter who will wear an airpack annually, and after that review, the firefighter must be tested to make sure the air mask fits. This line is up \$200 based on the estimated costs for reviews performed by Maine Coast Memorial Hospital.

**Station Maintenance - \$2,500** – This is the largest increase in the budget and is based on the 5-year average. As the fire station ages, there are more and more maintenance needs. The biggest item so far this fiscal year were three more new gear lockers to accommodate turnout gear for members.

**Hydrants - \$1,000** – The various dry hydrants around town are maintained through this account. This year new piping was purchased, but the hydrant was unable to be installed in a pond in North Lamoine due to the depth of water. A turnout to that pond was installed – we can use that with a floating strainer if need be. The piping will be saved to repair any hydrants that might need it in the future. No change is proposed from the current year budget.

**Gas & Diesel - \$1,600** – This line is directly dependent on the number and severity of fire calls. For instance, a call this month saw us use three trucks for about 8-hours each, and that will consume a lot of diesel. The proposed budget is unchanged from the previous fiscal year. We hope fuel prices remain low.

**Extinguishers - \$200** – The extinguishers are serviced annually and occasionally one gets used and needs to be refilled. The budget is unchanged from the current year.

**Foam - \$800** – This again is dependent on the number and severity of calls. A house fire can quickly use up 25 gallons of foam. \$800 will buy between 10 and 15 gallons of foam. No change is proposed from the current fiscal year.

**Air Pack Maintenance - \$2,000** – This is mandated by the Bureau of Labor Standards. Bottles need to be hydrostatically tested every five years, and the regulators flow tested annually. The proposed increase is based on expectation of more costs as the regulators and bottles age.

**Fire Prevention - \$50** – The department gives a presentation to the students in grades K-3. This covers some material purchases (the famous plastic fire helmets) that are handed out.

**Dues & Memberships - \$800** – The cost to belong to the Maine Federation of Firefighters jumped dramatically last year. The increase of \$200 is based on the actual cost for the previous fiscal year.

**Training - \$2,000** – The department is required to train annually on a number of things, and firefighters are encouraged to take classes as offered through various training opportunities. We're fortunate that many take advantage of that and bring back the knowledge to the department. There is a proposed \$500 increase in hopes that we could possibly pick up a couple of new members to attend the FF academy.

**Other- \$100** – Occasionally we'll get a call that spans a meal time, and that's what this line is generally used for. It's no change from the current year, and certainly not extravagant.

**Attack Hose/Nozzles - \$800** – Hose testing has eliminated a couple of sections of attack hose. This will be used to replace the hose that fails testing.

**Supply Hose - \$600** – We also have 4" hose that fails from time to time. This will buy one 100' section.

**Turnout Gear - \$2,500** – This will purchase one full set of gear. We are quickly approaching the end of the recommended life of turnout gear for many of our firefighters and hope to qualify for an Assistance to Firefighting Grant to replace 10-sets.

**Radio Purchase \$500** – This will purchase one hand held portable for use by the Assistant Chief.

**Equipment Purchases - \$500** – The proposed purchase is an extra length of hoses for the Holmatro cutting tools.

**Truck/Ladder/Hose Testing - \$2,500** – No change is proposed from the current budget. The department is mandated to test hoses and ladders and trucks every year. We do in house inspections of ladders and do our own truck pump testing. The hose testing is contracted by a certified testing company and runs over \$2,000. It's a huge job that we do not have the equipment or manpower to perform.

**Total Budget - \$51,850** – The total budget is proposed to increase \$4,450.00. To put things in perspective, though, consider that the total budget is less than the cost of one full-time firefighter with salary and benefits. It's a good bang for the buck.

Respectfully submitted,

George "Skip" Smith, Fire Chief

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